MUFFINS FOR DAY AND NIGHT GO SWEET OR SAVOURY {page 12}

WAITING GAME

MARRIAGE BLAMED FOR BREAKUP {page 10}

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Wednesday, March 23, 2011
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News worth sharing.

Federal election call looms

Spring vote all but imminent as opposition parties reject Conservative budget ◆ British Columbia expected to be fierce and unpredictable battleground

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

British Columbians better start warming up their ballot-checking skills, because they'll be using them a lot this year.

Already expecting a provincial byelection in Vancouver-Point Grey and municipal elections this year, residents in B.C. — and all of Canada — now face the prospect of a full-fledged federal election after opposition parties refused to support the Conservative budget yesterday.

"It doesn't look like they'll change their mind, they were absolute on it," said Tri-Cities Conservative MP James Moore, after it became clear the budget would be shot down. "Canadians are going to be dragged into an election they don't want, especially in B.C. where they just chose a new premier and need a by-election and the municipal elections."

Simon Fraser University political scientist Doug McArthur doesn't think British Columbians are at risk of election fatigue, but he agrees a federal election would be expensive and ultimately unnecessary.

"An election has been all but officially called," McArthur said. "All signs point to (a Conservative minority government), so there's a weariness about why we're having one."

Still, the impact of the harmonized sales tax and the retirement of Conservative MPs Stockwell Day, Chuck Strahl and John Cummins will make B.C. a hotly contested province, McArthur says.

"There could be some changes here in B.C.," he said. "People in British Columbia feel their expectations haven't been met. (The Conservatives) could lose a seat or two, the Liberals could slip and we have to watch the strength of the NDP as well."

Moore says he's prepared for the political battle ahead.

"I'll be ready," he declared. "The main thing is to get some stability so we don't have the nonsense that we see here today."

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Finance Minister Jim Flaherty speaks with the media in the foyer of the House of Commons following the federal budget on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday. More coverage, pages 6 & 7.

Libya raid abandoned

Canadian military fighters feared civilian casualties {page 4}

Farnworth on top: Poll

Candidate favoured to win NDP leadership {page 3}

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Vancouver split on casino

Despite public outcry and highly mobilized opposition, it appears that Greater Vancouver residents are split almost down the middle when it comes to plans to expand Edgewater Casino alongside B.C. Place.

According to an Angus Reid poll released yesterday, the "yes" side seems to be winning out marginally: Forty-seven per cent of Metro Vancouver respondents favour the $450-million expansion, 44 per cent are against and nine per cent are undecided. NATALIE KAUR JOHAL

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Artist rendering of a proposed Edgewater expansion.

British Columbians more open to HST: Poll

A recent poll suggests that British Columbians are more accepting of the HST.

A poll by Angus Reid shows that 33 per cent of British Columbians plan to vote in favour of the HST during the referendum, tentatively scheduled for June 24.

In June 2010 when British Columbians were asked how they would vote in an HST referendum, only 17 per cent said they would vote for it. MEAGAN GILL

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

▶ NDP MLA Mike Farnworth at the party's first leadership debate in Surrey on Sunday.

Farnworth leads NDP race

▶ NDP leadership vote April 17 ▶ Liberals most popular in Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Island and the North ▶ NDP leading in Interior ▶ Poll conducted on March 16 and 17, when premier announced minimum wage increase

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

If the NDP had had its leadership vote today, Mike Farnworth would likely emerge as the winner, according to a survey released yesterday by Angus Reid.

The poll found that 43 per cent of British Columbians and 54 per cent of NDP voters think Farnworth is the best candidate to replace Carole James as leader of the opposition.

Adrian Dix is second with the support of 27 per cent of B.C. residents and 41 per cent of NDP voters.

The poll also found that the B.C. Liberals have rebounded from low public approval, with 43 per cent of decided voters and leaners saying they will support the governing party in the next election.

The NDP is second with 38 per cent.

This is a drastic shift from last June when the Liberals introduced the controversial HST and public support plummeted.

An Angus Reid poll conducted at that time found only 26 per cent of British Columbians planned on voting for the Liberals in the next election, compared to 46 per cent support for the NDP.

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1 news

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Canadian pilots abort Libya raid over civilian risk

- U.S. jet crashes, pilots eject, one hides in sheep pen
- Clinton says a Gadhafi son may have been killed

It was just too risky.

Canadian military fighters abandoned an attack on a Libyan airfield and avoided civilian deaths yesterday on their first offensive operation against Moammar Gadhafi since arriving on the weekend.

Defence aide Maj.-Gen. Tom Lawson said the two Canadian pilots and command elements determined the risk of collateral damage was too high.

An American F-15 jet crashed in the rebel-held east, both crew ejecting.

One of the pilots parachuted into a rocky field and hid in a sheep pen on a family farm. The pilot left in a car, taking with him water and juice the family provided.

The second pilot was picked up by a helicopter.

Battles rage

- Moammar Gadhafi's forces shelled rebels in the dunes outside Ajdabiya, a city of 140,000 that is the gateway to the east.
- Misrata, Libya's third-largest city, was being bombarded by Gadhafi's forces, his tanks and snipers controlling the streets.
- Civilians in Misrata were surviving on dwindling supplies of food and water.

Other developments:

• One of Gadhafi's sons may have been killed, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told ABC News. She cited unconfirmed reports and did not say which son she meant.

• The Dutch will deploy six F-16 fighter jets, a refuelling plane and a minesweeper in the Libya operation.

• Gadhafi appeared before a crowd in Tripoli, pledging victory.

• President Barack Obama said he has no doubt the U.S. will be able to transfer control of the Libya operation to an international coalition within days. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republic of Congo. 19 killed

▶ The Antonov 32's tail stands as a stark monument to disaster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plane crash shocks neighbourhood

At least 19 people were killed and many more wounded when a cargo plane crashed in a densely populated neighbourhood of Pointe-Noire, the economic capital of the Republic of Congo, officials said. The Antonov 32 buried several houses in debris. The pilot was able to escape from the cockpit.

2 **Two past winners of the award include former president Gerald Ford and former UN secretary general Kofi Annan. Kennedy's family created the honour.**

His courage hailed

Wael Ghonim, a Google executive who launched a Facebook page that sparked protests in Egypt that led to the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak is to receive the annual John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

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Africa 11-Day Tour — from $1669 taxes & fees included
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Australia 14-Day Tour — from $2075 taxes & fees included
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It's the DOA budget

Flaherty delivered goodies, but with an election looming it's unlikely they'll see the light of day

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty stuffed his budget yesterday with goodies.

They included programs such as a return of the home energy retrofit program, tax credits for caregivers, improved pensions for the poorest seniors, and breaks for tots' art classes and tutoring.

But with the opposition vowing to trigger an election, the likelihood is that none of the measures will see the light of day.

What will survive is the bottom line — the federal government of whatever stripe will have more money to spend or to squirrel away for a rainy day.

"Leadership is about finding a balance between needs," Flaherty told the House of Commons.

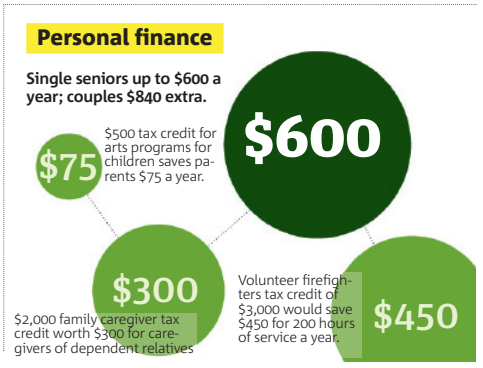
New program spending worth $2.3 billion is largely offset by cuts elsewhere as the original, recession-fighting budget of 2009 finally expires.

It's all packaged in a conservative document that forecasts the huge federal deficit receding slightly faster than predicted, down to $40.5 billion the year just ending, $29.6 billion in 2011-12 and virtually eliminated four years from now.

"There's nothing in this budget the opposition parties couldn't vote for," Chisholm Pothier, Flaherty's spokesperson, told a briefing.

How wrong he was.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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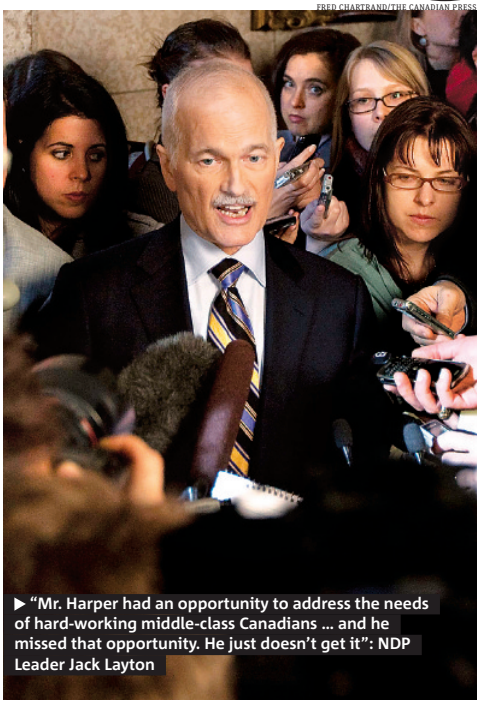

▶ "Mr. Harper had an opportunity to address the needs of hard-working middle-class Canadians ... and he missed that opportunity. He just doesn't get it": NDP Leader Jack Layton

What they said

Some quotes in the wake of the federal budget:

- "We find that the priorities of this government are not the priorities of ordinary Canadians," said Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff.
- "Nothing in this budget has persuaded me that Mr. Harper has changed his ways. And that's why the NDP will not support this budget in its current form," said NDP Leader Jack Layton.
- "No tax hikes, no substantial spending cuts. I like that very much," said Steve Goudy, a 59-year-old provincial government retiree living in Fredericton.
- "Stephen Harper clearly has the wrong priorities," said Ken Neumann, a top United Steelworkers exec.
- "Better by the day," said Jack Layton when asked about his health problems.

Flaherty's fiscal fairy dust is a learning tool

Conservative attack ads may accuse Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff of "just visiting" for his years living overseas.

But the federal budget makes it easier for young Canadians to study abroad.

By sprinkling some fiscal fairy dust, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's sixth budget tries to slice off a key plank in a possible Liberal election campaign: Education.

Flaherty offered modest credits that increase exemptions and expand eligibility for Canada Student Loans and Grants by $34 million a year, and invest $9 million over two years to increase adult basic education and opportunities in the North.

Flaherty also offered $10 million in tax relief to Canadian students pursuing post-secondary education abroad.

"As Canadian students seek to develop the skills and knowledge needed to work in a global marketplace, the government recognizes students pursuing the best educational opportunities available to them, whether in Canada or abroad," the budget says.

Flaherty's budget also contains new spending aimed at luring the best and brightest foreign students to Canada's halls of higher learning.

The budget provides $10 million over two years to develop "an international education strategy that will reinforce Canada as a country of choice to study and conduct world-class research." THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more news, visit metronews.ca/edmonton

Retail sales fall flat

Canadian retail sales fell unexpectedly in January to 0.3 per cent or $37.1 billion, Statistics Canada said yesterday, much lower than economists' expectations of a one per cent increase. Seven out of 11 sectors reported selling less, but food, building, sporting-goods and department stores reported gains. The auto industry had the greatest impact on overall numbers, with new car sales dropping 1.7 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big breaks for small business in budget

Credits would offset employment-insurance premiums, new equipment

Small business got a boost in yesterday's federal budget with a break on employment-insurance premiums and an extension of a program to buy new equipment. However, with the opposition saying they'll vote down the document, the proposal is moot.

The budget measures are in addition to the billions in corporate tax cuts that Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has defended as a cornerstone of economic recovery.

Some 525,000 small businesses would receive a credit worth up to $1,000 to offset increases in employment-insurance premiums. Flaherty also extended to 2014 a program that allows companies to write off the cost of new equipment in two years, faster than normally allowed.

However, corporations would pay more in some areas. Changes in partnership rules that allowed for the deferral of corporate tax, along with changes in the rules governing how dividends are paid, would have brought in hundreds of millions of dollars for the government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

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PAUL SULLIVAN

It's funny how life works.

For many of us, the idea of "destiny" is quaint, old-fashioned, from a time when the gods could not resist meddling in the lives of individuals.

Now, science has taught us that instead of being pre-destined by the Fates, stuff just happens. The universe is a cold, random place, and we're just lucky (or unlucky, depending on your point of view) bits of organized carbon.

But if that's the case, what's with Julian Assange and Scandinavia?

Consider the facts. Assange is the founder of WikiLeaks and has upset the global apple cart by leaking scads of U.S. State Department memos setting off scandals in virtually every world capital.

The lineup of leaders who would cheerfully strangle Assange forms over there on the left, but for some strange reason, his next destination appears to be Sweden, where he faces murky sexual assault charges. "Murky" because there appears to be a strong possibility that the sex in question was consensual and Assange may be the victim of his own personality, as in he's a cad.

"Now, science has taught us that instead of being pre-destined by the Fates, stuff just happens."

Assange is, of course, Australian, which is nowhere near Sweden. And his beef is with the U.S. State Department, which usually has little or nothing to do with Sweden. Meanwhile, he's holed up in the U.K., trying not to be extradited to Sweden, mainly because he's afraid Sweden will hand him over to the U.S.

Complicated.

While he's in the U.K. awaiting the appeal of the Swedish extradition order, he has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. If he wins that, to accept his prize, he will have to go to … Scandinavia! Oslo, Norway, to be precise, which is right next door to Sweden.

So, in a strange twist of what can only be called fate, Assange could either be incarcerated in Scandinavia as the lowest of the low, a sex criminal, or exalted in Scandinavia as the highest of the high, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, alongside Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

Either this guy was a salmon in a previous life and is somehow pining for the fjords of his fingerling days, or his ridiculously fascinating life has prompted the gods out of retirement and they have arranged a good old-fashioned Norse saga to rival Beowulf.

After all, Assange is a little like Beowulf, but instead of Grendel, he has the U.S. government by the tail. Don't know about you, but I'd rather take my chances with Grendel.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Playing the Trump card

Worth mentioning

You're ... hired?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

There's the blowhard billionaire. The "good ole boy" from the Deep South. The ever-maligned former Alaska governor. Another onetime governor whose action-movie-esque promotional ad has spurred guffaws, not respect. And a onetime congressional guiding light whose adulterous past still haunts him.

The Republican race for the 2012 presidential nomination hasn't officially begun yet, but if all the wannabe commanders-in-chief considering taking on U.S. President Barack Obama do throw their hats in the ring, the battle for the White House could be the most entertaining in years.

A recent poll by the Wall Street Journal and NBC suggests Donald Trump — yes, Donald Trump — has a higher approval rating than two of his would-be rivals, Mitt Romney and Tim Pawlenty. Trump, the star of The Apprentice, is pondering a run.

If he does decide to run, Trump could face challengers that rival him in the fame department, including Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor who recently told Israel to "stop apologizing" so much, and Newt Gingrich, the onetime speaker of the House of Representatives who hounded former president Bill Clinton about his affair with a White House intern while he himself was involved in an adulterous romance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Are U.S. politics more entertaining than Canadian politics? Why?

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Metro Minute with Jersey Shore star

Get your GTL on and join one of the cast members of the hit reality show Jersey Shore in a fist pumping-filled party tonight in White Rock.

The first club that brought Jersey Shore stars to Canada last year — Jwoww in January and Vinny in November — will bring in another cast member to host the event.

Expect a meet-and-greet with the guido or guidette who has not yet been to Ocean Beach. The club is guaranteeing a minimum two-hour appearance.

Catch the reality star at 9 p.m. at the Ocean Beach Lounge-Club, 14995 Marine Dr., White Rock.

For tickets, call 604-202-2620.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

ASTRID STAWIARZ/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jersey Shore stars Vinny Guadagnino and Ronnie Ortiz-Magro in New York City in January.

Fighting the good fight

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Director Zack Snyder

Zack Snyder, director of Watchmen and the new Sucker Punch, takes on the studio system with a film based on his own idea But it wasn't easy bringing his vision to the big screen

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

With Sucker Punch, visually inventive director Zack Snyder (300, Watchmen) presents his first film based on his own original idea — and original is putting it lightly.

The film follows a group of girls trapped in an insane asylum who use their imaginations to escape their dark reality, transporting themselves to fiery, bullet-ridden battlefields where they dispatch enemies with stunt-filled fury.

But Snyder admits it wasn't easy to bring his vision to the screen. He spoke to Metro about his influences, not going 3-D and fights with the studio.

You make original movies. Do you ever get much interference from the studio?

Oh yeah. That's the danger. They have preconceived ideas about what a good movie is or what you should be doing, and I think that in the end you really just have to be true to yourself. I feel like this movie pushes the envelope in all of its facets. You know, it's a female cast, it's got a complicated structure that's difficult. It has a dark ending that's not necessarily what they would've hoped for. Trust me, they did not like the ending. You just have to fight the fight.

How does having your wife, Deborah Snyder, as your producing partner help?

Those exact fights are the fights that she has every day to make sure the movie stays the movie I want to make. She really fights that fight.

You made Sucker Punch while also completing Legends of the Guardians. How did the two differ?

I wish Rango had come out before Guardians because when you see Rango you realize that they didn't give a s— about the kids at all and they just made a cool movie.

We had that potential, I think, with Guardians, but everyone just said, "No, no, no, you can't do that. You've got to make a children's film." And so I got into a big fight with the studio because I just wanted to make an adventure movie with owls in it. But they were like, "No, no. You've got to soften it so that parents don't freak out." But I had a great experience with it. It was a good film.

Was there talk about making Sucker Punch 3-D?

Yeah, absolutely ... I've seen some great conversion stuff. This Korean company that was going to do it for Sucker Punch did a conversion of a five-minute sequence of 300 that was amazing, and I was like, "Wow. If they can do that level, maybe we can do something cool."

But to do it over the course of a whole movie is just not that easy. It's a bigger deal than the studios realize. And I think that the field is going to be leveled soon by cost versus return.

Because nobody knows. Right now the studios are just spending millions and millions of dollars to make a 3-D movie — like, $30 million more than it would cost to make a 2-D movie. So eventually someone's got to go, "OK. Is it worth it? Are they getting that money back?" You really start to wonder, is it worth the fuss?

REVIVING THE WOMEN-IN-PRISON GENRE

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Recently, a poll found that more than one in five British cinema-goers preferred comedy to any other film style.

Action/adventure films placed second with romantic comedies rounding out the top three. That trio of genres eats up most of the space at movie theatres, but there are hundreds of other kinds of films.

This weekend Sucker Punch opens in theatres, a women-in-prison film directed by 300 helmer Zach Snyder, reviving a genre thought to have gone the way of nunsploitation and Pauly Shore movies.

Of all the sub-sub genres, the women-in-prison (WIP) movie has to be one of the least appreciated.

There was a time when these stories of women in lock-up, at the mercy of cruel prison guards, proudly took up screens in drive-ins and second run houses.

With names like Caged Heat and Barbed Wire Dolls, these movies, along with kung fu and blaxploitation flicks, kept many a grindhouse in business. WIP films have been around since the 1930s but didn't become popular until the 1950s when cautionary tales like Agnes Moorehead's Caged and Ida Lupino's Women's Prison mixed and matched hardened criminals with sadistic guards.

It wasn't until Spanish exploitation filmmaker Jess Franco hit upon the misogynistic recipe of mixing babes, bars and bondage, however, that the subgenre was born. His first WIP movie, 99 Women, sparked a revolution in sexploitation films.

No WIP exploitation film ever won an Academy Award, but at least one of their filmmakers did. Oscar winner Jonathan Demme is known as the man behind Silence of the Lambs and Philadelphia, but buried deep down on his resume is his big screen debut, Caged Heat.

"Jonathan took that assignment," remembers producer Roger Corman, "and said, 'This is gonna be the best one ever made.' Jonathan took the genre, worked with it, and made something exceptionally good."

2 scene

Walk of Fame

Bryan Adams is now enshrined in concrete.

The Canadian singer, songwriter, guitarist, bassist and producer got his Hollywood Walk of Fame star Monday in front of the Musicians Institute.

Adams recalled visiting Hollywood Boulevard at 16 and marveling at the stars. He said he was humbled by seeing his own star.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ralph Macchio on top, Mike Catherwood finishes last as Dancing begins its 12th season

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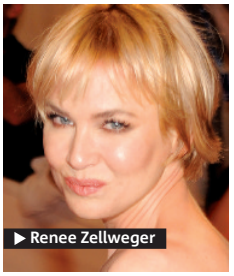
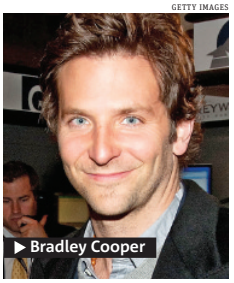
Renee got tired of waiting for a ring?

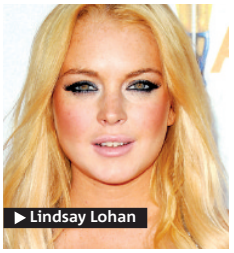
Renee Zellweger and Bradley Cooper's two-year romance may have come to an end because Zellweger got tired of waiting for an engagement ring, sources tell Popeater.

"We all thought for sure they were going to be together forever after they moved in together last fall," a friend of Zellweger says. "But after that she wanted a ring, and he just wasn't ready to propose." Both have been married before, though, and neither ended well. "Renee was ready to give it another try with Bradley," the friend says. "She's 41 and has an Oscar. She's starting to think about children and settling down." METRO


▶ Renee Zellweger

GETTY IMAGES


▶ Bradley Cooper


▶ Lindsay Lohan

Lohan's mom: 'My children don't steal'

Lindsay Lohan is due in court Friday to enter a plea in her latest court battle, this one over a $2,500 necklace she allegedly stole — and her mom, Dina Lohan, says Lindsay may plead no contest.

"Obviously she's not pleading guilty. My children don't steal things. But the system is so strange out in L.A.. We're considering a couple of options and just want to get this over with in the shortest amount of time," Dina tells the New York Daily News.

But Dina insists, no matter what the plea, her daughter is innocent. "She was clearly loaned the necklace," she says. METRO

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TROY FLEECE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A display inside the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Regina, Sask. Regina will host the 2011 world men's curling championship next month and will welcome the world's top male curlers, as well as their fans, who will visit the city during the event, which takes place April 2 to 10.

Hurry hard to curling worlds in Regina

Organizers expect a loud crowd at the men's world curling championship in Saskatchewan
Go support Canada's team skipped by Jeff Stoughton in the province where curling is king

Saskatchewan is about to be swept away by curling and is ready to welcome those who want to ride the broom.

Regina will host the 2011 world men's curling championship next month and is expecting thousands of fans along with the world's top male curlers, their families, officials, coaches and media. Derek Boe, chairman of the local organizing committee, says curling fans traditionally have been a quiet crowd but that's changing.

"Kind of what we noticed happening, mostly at Olympics this year out in Vancouver, was that things got rocking and rolling pretty good and the curlers loved it," said Boe, president of Curl Regina. "It is becoming a bit more of a raucous crowd and more enthusiastic and more lively and spirited."

Boe also notes that curling is Saskatchewan's official sport. There's no better place for visitors to brush up on curling lore than the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Regina.

"You've got lots of big names from Saskatchewan curling and they're all represented with their team," says Sheila Kelly, the hall's executive director.

Among those honoured in the hall is Regina's Ernie Richardson — the only male curler in history to skip a team to four world titles.

There are medals and memorabilia from Sandra Schmirler. "Schmirler the Curler," as she was known, skipped her team to three Canadian titles, three world titles and a gold medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics. She died of cancer in 2000.

And then there's the Grand Transoceanic Match — a funspiel for spectators that started in the '70s as a way for curling fans to get to know each other on the ice.

"They're just amateurs that enjoy curling," said Boe. "They've just kind of established this tradition of going and attending the World Championships and said 'Jeez, wouldn't it be fun if while we were there we staged a little match.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go ...

- **Worlds.** The 2011 Ford World Men's Curling Championship will be held at Evraz Place. Ticket and draw schedule information can be found at curling.ca/championships/worlds.
- **Hall of Fame.** The Saskatchewan Sports of Hall of Fame and Museum is located at 2205 Victoria Ave. Admission is free. More information can be found at sshfm.com
- **Funspiel.** The Grand Transoceanic Match will be held April 8 at the Caledonian Curling Club, known locally as the Callie.

3 life

Travel in brief

Via Rail is adding two sites to its Garden Route for 2011: Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens in Nova Scotia.

Now in its sixth year, the Garden Route promotes major horticultural attractions across the country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ScanLife

Tour of Shanghai's Jewish history tells story of WWII refugees, crowded ghetto

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EMILY RICHARDS

Roasted Broccoli and Cheddar Muffins

These savoury Roasted Broccoli and Cheddar Muffins are the perfect combination of broccoli and cheese. Roasting the broccoli helps to keep its crisp texture while adding some golden colour.

The muffins are best enjoyed as a new twist on the dinner table side dish.

Preparation:

1. **Roasted Broccoli**: In bowl, toss together broccoli florets with oil, salt and pepper. Spread onto small parchment paper lined baking sheet or pan. Roast in 400°F (200°C) oven for about 20 minutes or until golden and tender crisp. Let cool completely. Chop broccoli and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, whisk together flour, cornmeal, baking powder, baking soda, salt and chili powder.
3. In another bowl, whisk together milk, egg and butter. Pour over flour mixture and stir until just combined. Add cheese and roasted broccoli. Stir until distributed evenly.
4. Spoon batter among greased muffin tins and bake in 400°F (200°C) for about 15 minutes or until firm to the touch and light golden. Let cool in pan on cooling rack. Serve warm.

EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) cornmeal
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) chili powder
- 1 cup (250 mL) milk
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) butter, melted or extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded Old Cheddar cheese

Roasted Broccoli

- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) small broccoli florets
- 2 tsp (10 mL) extra virgin olive oil
- Pinch each salt and pepper

Do you know the muffin woman?

Metro's food columnist shares two different muffin recipes Serve one at breakfast, the other at dinner

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

These scrumptious Double Almond and Chocolate Muffins are packed with essential nutrients to help jump-start your children's day. Whip up a batch for breakfast or to tuck into lunch bags.

With a hint of banana flavour, they're are also perfect with an afternoon cup of tea.

Up the almond ante by spreading almond butter on half of a freshly baked muffin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS HO/ CALIFORNIA ALMONDS

▶ You can omit lemon juice and milk and substitute with 1/4 cup (50 mL) buttermilk.

Preparation:

1. In large bowl, combine lemon juice and milk; set aside.
2. In another bowl, whisk pastry and almond flour, baking powder and soda, salt and cinnamon; set aside.
3. Using electric mixer beat in sugar, egg whites, oil and whole egg to milk mix; beat at high speed until well blended. Add banana, water and vanilla; beat at low speed until combined. With mixer on low speed, slowly add flour mixture to banana mixture until combined.
4. Spray muffin tins with cooking spray and spoon batter into cups. Sprinkle almonds and chocolate chips, if using, over muffins. Bake in 350 F (180 C) oven for 20 minutes or until tester inserted comes out clean. Let muffins cool in pan for 10 minutes, then remove and cool.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA .

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA

Ingredients:

- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) lemon juice
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) skim milk
- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) whole-wheat pastry flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) almond flour (ground almonds)
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) baking powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt and ground cinnamon
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 egg whites
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) canola oil
- 1 egg
- 1 cup (250 mL) mashed banana (about 3 medium)
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) water
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) sliced almonds
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chocolate chips (optional)

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NOT WELL? MAKE YOUR NEEDS KNOWN

Workplace Law

DANIEL LUBLIN

IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.
DAN@CANADAEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM

Employees dismissed for underperformance never go quietly. Often they complain that the cards were stacked against them or that their employer's decision was somehow unfair.

But what about an employee who claims he was fired because of discrimination?

Sean Carter tried this card at a recent human rights hearing and learned that proving discrimination is more difficult than he thought.

Carter, a program coordinator at a rehab clinic in Hamilton, Ontario, was injured in a car accident that led to time off from work.

When he returned, Carter felt that he was treated differently at work, claiming that he was disciplined more often and his views were dismissed.

Carter then suffered from stress and depression, which he said resulted from workload and family deaths. His performance deteriorated, and when the clinic tried to manage it, Carter left.

He wrote in cryptically that he was going to see his doctor "for some results" and would be off work for a few weeks. Five days later, he was fired.

ISTOCK

▶ Failing to clarify your needs to an employer during an illness could lead to complex legal situations should you feel discriminated against after the fact.

Carter complained to the Human Rights Tribunal in Ontario, perhaps Canada's most employee-friendly administrative body.

However, instead of finding that Carter was fired for his disability, the Tribunal found that he did not even have one. This is because Carter failed to show that he even disclosed a medical condition or any medically-related needs to his employer.

Therefore, the Tribunal wrote, Carter's employer had no obligation to accommodate him and his termination was unrelated to his request for medical leave.

Not every claim for sick leave leads to a "disability" that must be accommodated.

Too many employers accept cryptic doctor's notes without scrutiny and too many employees fail to properly clarify their medical needs. Most of the time, both employers and employees are just ignorant of the law.

Taking time off

If you are sick at work or employ someone who is, consider these steps:

- Provide or request written medical authentication of an illness from a treating physician and ensure that the report is comprehensive.
- Meet and discuss accommodation. Employees don't need to disclose their condition, just the fact they have one and need assistance from their employer to remain productive.
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Digital generation includes old souls

Young people peeking into the past with vinyl

NICK WASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Sarah McCarthy, right, and her boyfriend Jack Carroll rummage through records in Maryland.

In most ways, Sarah McCarthy is your average high schooler. She has a job, college plans, but also a peculiar passion for a 16-year-old: She's a vinyl junkie.

Sure, she has an iPod, but she also has a vinyl collection of 250 records and counting.

"Listening to old music remastered to a newer format is almost comical," Sarah said. "They weren't meant to be digitalized. Listening to Jimi Hendrix on my iPod doesn't capture his endlessly deep guitar solos quite like a 33 LP of 'Blues' does."

This girl's in love with vinyl, and she's not the only member of Generation Digital with an ear for analogue.

The uptick in interest over several years includes nostalgic "nerdy superfans" looking for a way around the more sanitized sound of digital, 14-year-old Nick Spates, a Los Angeles eighth grader who plays guitar and piano, but also savvy young people with Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and a host of obscure post-punk music on their minds.

While the recording industry dukes it out over downloads and mourns the CD, 2.5 million vinyl LPs were sold in 2009, up 33 per cent from the year before. Vinyl sales are a blip among total revenue from U.S. music sales and licensing, but that's a healthy increase in its own right.

"Young people are leading the way back to analogue through vinyl and turntables," said Matt Melvin, a 22-year-old college senior in Orlando, Fla.

"I think young people are demanding a product that is more tangible, the thrill of hunting through a store for that perfect record, the simple satisfaction of turning that record over."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Doc, pass me the Xbox

Doctors at a Toronto hospital are banking on video game technology to save time in the operating room

CANADIAN PRESS

A team at Sunnybrook Hospital has started using the Xbox Kinect, a hands-free gaming console equipped with a motion sensor, to virtually manipulate key medical images during surgery.

The doctors use hand gestures to zoom in and out of the images or freeze a particular shot without leaving the operating table.

Surgeons typically have to leave the sterile field around the patient to pull up images such as MRI or CT scans on a nearby computer.

They then have to go through a meticulous cleanup before returning to the area to make sure they don't bring in any bacteria that could harm the patient.

It can take up to 20 minutes to clean up each time a doctor consults an image, said Dr. Calvin Law, who helped integrate the technology into the operating room.

Those interruptions sometimes cause more than an hour's delay over the course of a surgery, said Law, a surgical oncologist with the hospital's gastrointestinal cancer team.

"It all adds up," he said. By eliminating those delays, the hospital could save enough time to operate on more patients, he said.

What's more, it would help surgeons stay focused and decrease the risk of contamination by keeping everyone within the sterile field, he said.

Surgeons can ask assistants outside the field to adjust images, but that's "always a little trouble-some because of communication," Law said.

He compares the Kinect technology to a car's global positioning system, because it allows the user to get oriented without stopping.

With better control over the images, surgeons can be more precise, Law said. For a cancer surgeon, that could mean saving more healthy tissue when removing a tumour, he said.

The idea to bring the Kinect into the operating room came from three engineers - Jamie Tremaine, Greg Brigley and Matt Strickland.

Strickland, who doubles as a general surgery resident at the University of Toronto, first spotted the challenges surgeons face in viewing images during surgery, according to Tremaine.

The Kinect seemed like a good solution, he said.

The console is a depth camera, meaning it sees in 3-D. It then creates a digital skeleton of the person captured on camera and tracks how the skeleton moves. Those motions are translated into commands.

The engineers worked closely with surgeons at Sunnybrook to find command gestures that could be used in the operating room without compromising surgery procedures, Law said.

The system underwent extensive testing and has been used in surgery six times, Law said. There are plans to roll it out in other parts of the hospital.

So far, Sunnybrook is believed to be the only hospital using the Kinect, but Tremaine said he and his colleagues are hoping to change that.

They're also looking into ways to use the technology for physiotherapy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The use of the Xbox Kinect could vastly improve the time a surgeon takes to perform an operation.

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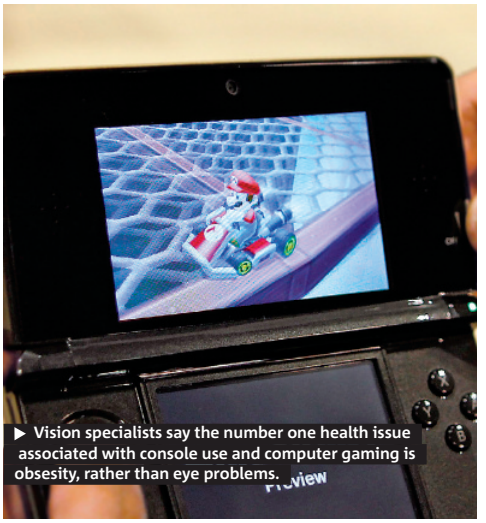
He's got an eye for gaming

Optometrists weigh-in on a manufacturer's warning against gaming under six Experts argue consoles could flag hard-to-diagnose eye issues

SHUJI KAJIYAMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Vision specialists say the number one health issue associated with console use and computer gaming is obsesity, rather than eye problems.

U.S. eye specialists are welcoming the Nintendo 3DS game device, dismissing the manufacturer's warnings that its 3-D screen shouldn't be used by children six or younger because it may harm their immature vision.

On the contrary, the optometrists say, it's a good idea to get your kids to try the 3-D screen, especially if they're younger than 6. It won't do any harm, they say, and it could help catch vision disorders that have to be caught early to be fixed.

"The 3DS could be a godsend for identifying kids under 6 who need vision therapy," said Michael Duenas, associate director for health sciences and policy for the American Optometric Association.

"The 3DS could be a godsend for identifying kids under six who need vision therapy."
MICHAEL DUENAS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

The new handheld game device is already available in Japan and goes on sale in the U.S. on March 27 for $250. It has two screens like the DS machines it is designed to replace.

The top screen can show 3D images, without the need for special glasses, though only new games will be in 3-D. A pair of cameras on the 3DS can be used to take 3-D pictures.

If your kid doesn't see the 3-D effect on the 3DS, that's a sign that he or she may have a vision disorder such as amblyopia, or "lazy eye," or subtler problems that can cause problems with reading, Duenas said. Kids who experience dizziness or discomfort should also be checked, he said.

Today's 3-D viewing systems send different images to the right and left eyes, a technique that creates an illusion of depth. But a lot of the cues we use to perceive depth in our environment are missing. That confuses the eyes and accounts for the eyestrain and headaches many people experience watching 3-D movies. Because of that, optometrists say, these systems can help isolate problems that have to do with the way the eyes move, problems that aren't caught by eye charts.

These problems are much easier to fix if caught before age six, when the visual system in our brains is more or less done developing.

Only 15 per cent of preschool children get a comprehensive eye exam that could catch these subtle problems, according to the American Optometric Association, the professional group for optometrists. More than half of all juvenile delinquents have undiagnosed and untreated vision problems, according to studies.

Going to see a 3-D movie or trying a 3D TV can also help screen for problems, but optometrists expect the 3DS to be in front of kids' eyes more.

"This has presented my profession, optometry, a wonderful opportunity," said Joe Ellis, the president of the optometrists' association. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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4 sports

Fans. All together now ...

▶ Phoenix Coyotes fans help the on-ice officials make a holding call on the St. Louis Blues last night.

NORM HALL/NHLI VIA GETTY IMAGES

Coyotes survive slow start to beat Blues 2-1

Lauri Korpikoski had a goal and an assist and Ilya Bryzgalov stopped 29 shots as the Coyotes rallied after a sluggish start to beat the Blues 2-1 last night. Phoenix was booed by the hometown crowd late in the first period and was sluggish to start the second. The Coyotes righted themselves after a timeout by coach Dave Tippett in the second got Ray Whitney and Korpikoski scoring. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canucks preview

Canucks at Red Wings
4:30 p.m.
TV: TSN
Radio: AM 1040

Vancouver (47-17-9) is coming off a 3-1 loss to Phoenix that snapped the club's seven-game win streak. Defenceman Christian Ehrhoff had the Canucks' lone goal. Despite the defeat, Vancouver remains atop the NHL's overall standings.

Detroit (43-21-9) is coming off a 5-4 shootout loss to Pittsburgh on Monday night. The good news for the Red Wings, though, is they rallied from a 4-0 second-period deficit. Mike Modano scored for Detroit, his first since Nov. 3 in his 12th game back from a wrist injury.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Opinion

RORY BOYLEN
THE HOCKEY NEWS

MORE THAN A THIRD-LINE CENTRE LOST

Usually you wouldn't think losing a third-line centre for the season would significantly affect the playoff expectations of an all-world team. But this is different: This is Manny Malhotra.

I must admit, prior to this season I hadn't seen a lot of Malhotra and mostly considered him a first-round bust. Drafted seventh overall by the New York Rangers in 1998, Malhotra came straight to the NHL and the Rangers gave up on him four years later. His career high is 12 goals and 35 points, which at first glance isn't what you should be getting from a player who was picked that high.

But upon his landing in Vancouver I was able to watch Malhotra some more and this changed my opinion of him. In your average draft year most first-rounders won't be superstars and if an NHL team ends up getting a reliable NHL player out of the pick, they've come out on top. With all the uncertainty surrounding the draft, as long as you're adding players you're building a team.

Malhotra is a faceoff whiz, penalty-kill master and maybe the outright best third-line centre in the NHL. GM Mike Gillis specifically targeted improvements to his third line because the lack of effectiveness at that point in the depth chart is what cost the Canucks dearly in their second-round lost to Chicago last year — heck, even the year before that.

While all of the depth positions were tweaked, no addition was bigger than Malhotra. There's little doubt Vancouver would have been a force without him, but Malhotra gave the Canucks a whole new gear, one that has propelled them to a significant standings lead.

Now, you can't expect the team to implode because of the loss of one player, but make no mistake: This is a disastrous loss. Everything was going a little too smoothly for the Canucks this year, so perhaps this was the hockey gods' way of levelling the playing field.

Are the Canucks still favourites to win the Stanley Cup without Malhotra? The Hockey News thinks so, because while Malhotra was a difference-maker, this team is also about the Sedins, Keslers, Edlers and Luongos of the lineup.

But one thing is for sure: The loss of Malhotra has allowed the seeds of doubt to be planted. The Canucks hadn't showed a chink in the armour to this point, but their 30-year-old veteran brought more to this team than your average third-line centre.

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	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-Philadelphia	72	44	19	4	5	232	195	97	21-10-2-3	23-9-2-2	4-3-1-2	L1
d-Washington	74	43	21	5	5	203	180	96	22-8-2-5	21-13-3-0	9-1-0-0	W2
d-Boston	72	40	22	5	5	217	176	90	17-12-3-2	23-10-2-3	4-4-2-0	W1
Pittsburgh	73	42	23	5	3	213	181	92	22-13-2-0	20-10-3-3	6-2-2-0	W1
Tampa Bay	73	39	23	5	6	216	222	89	22-10-1-4	17-13-4-2	2-4-2-2	L3
Montreal	74	40	27	4	3	200	187	87	22-10-3-3	18-17-1-0	6-4-0-0	L1
NY Rangers	74	40	30	2	2	216	179	84	18-17-1-2	22-13-1-0	7-3-0-0	W5
Buffalo	73	36	28	8	1	216	208	81	16-16-3-1	20-12-5-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Carolina	73	34	29	5	5	205	217	78	20-12-2-2	14-17-3-3	5-4-1-0	W2
Toronto	74	33	31	5	5	195	225	76	17-14-3-4	16-17-2-1	5-4-1-0	W2
Atlanta	72	30	30	5	7	202	237	72	15-14-2-5	15-16-3-2	5-4-1-0	L1
New Jersey	73	34	35	3	1	155	186	72	17-15-2-1	17-20-0-1	6-4-0-0	L1
NY Islanders	74	29	33	7	5	208	234	70	16-15-1-4	13-18-6-1	6-1-2-1	W2
Florida	73	29	34	5	5	182	199	68	15-15-5-4	14-19-0-1	3-4-2-1	L2
Ottawa	73	27	37	5	4	167	227	63	13-19-2-3	14-18-3-1	6-4-0-0	L1

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	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
y-Vancouver	73	47	17	4	5	238	172	103	25-8-1-4	22-9-3-1	8-2-0-0	L1
d-Detroit	73	43	21	5	4	237	209	95	19-11-3-3	24-10-2-1	4-3-2-1	L2
d-San Jose	73	42	23	4	4	211	191	92	20-11-2-3	22-12-2-1	5-3-0-2	W3
Phoenix	75	40	24	7	4	215	208	91	18-12-4-2	22-12-3-2	7-2-1-0	W1
Los Angeles	73	41	26	4	2	199	177	88	21-12-3-0	20-14-1-2	6-2-2-0	W1
Nashville	74	39	25	6	4	193	174	88	20-8-4-3	19-18-1-1	7-2-1-0	W4
Chicago	72	39	25	3	5	234	203	86	22-14-0-0	17-11-4-4	6-2-1-1	W1
Anaheim	72	40	27	3	2	204	208	85	23-12-1-1	17-15-2-1	8-2-0-0	W3
Dallas	72	38	25	3	6	203	202	85	20-11-2-5	18-14-1-1	5-2-2-1	L1
Calgary	75	37	27	4	7	227	216	85	22-12-1-3	15-15-3-4	4-4-1-1	L2
Minnesota	74	35	31	3	5	185	207	78	17-15-2-3	18-16-1-2	2-6-2-0	L7
Columbus	73	33	29	4	7	199	223	77	16-16-1-3	17-13-3-4	2-4-1-3	L2
St. Louis	73	32	32	4	5	202	216	73	20-12-1-3	12-20-3-2	4-6-0-0	L3
Colorado	72	28	36	7	1	203	254	64	15-17-4-0	13-19-3-1	2-7-0-1	W2
Edmonton	73	23	40	2	8	176	240	56	12-20-1-4	11-20-2-3	3-5-1-1	L7

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division title; d — division leaders; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL or SOL columns.

Last night's results
Toronto 3 Minnesota 0
Nashville 3 Edmonton 1
Carolina 4 Ottawa 3
Buffalo 2 Montreal 0
Colorado 5 Columbus 4 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 1 Florida 0
Boston 4 New Jersey 1
Washington 5 Philadelphia 4 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 5 Tampa Bay 2
Phoenix 2 St. Louis 1
Monday's results
Pittsburgh 5 Detroit 4 (OT)
Los Angeles 2 Calgary 1 (SO)
Tonight's games

All times Eastern
Vancouver at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Calgary at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Montreal at Boston, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, WILD 0

First Period
1. Toronto, Lupul 10 (Bozak, Kessel) 1:39
Penalties — Nystrom Min (goaltender interference) 4:01, Cullen Min (boarding) 12:21, Brent Tor (interference) 13:06, Bouchard Min (tripping) 18:20.
Second Period
2. Toronto, Grabovski 28 (MacArthur, Kulemin) 11:20
Penalties — Gunnarsson Tor (tripping) 1:12, Brunette Min (hooking) 2:07, Stoner Min (cross-checking) 4:04, Schenn Tor (hooking) 7:04, Kadri Tor (tripping) 13:18.
Third Period
3. Toronto, Gunnarsson 4 (Grabovski, Kulemin) 2:13 (pp)
Penalties — Koivu Min (high-sticking) 1:35, Aulie Tor (interference) 7:06, Grabovski Tor (slashing), Zanon Min (roughing) 15:39, Aulie Tor (high-sticking) 17:14, Lashoff Tor (cross-checking) 19:21.
Shots

Toronto	8	3	6	—17
Minnesota	7	11	11	—29

Goal — Toronto: Reimer (W,16-7-4); Minnesota: Backstrom (L,21-20-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Toronto: 1-6; Minnesota: 0-7.
Referees — Brad Meier, Dean Morton. **Linesmen** — Brian Mach, Darren Gibbs.
Att. — 18,761 (18,064) at St. Paul, Minn.

PREDATORS 3, OILERS 1

First Period
1. Nashville, Erat 15 (Ward, Legwand) 4:08
2. Nashville, Hornqvist 19 (Kostitsyn, Suter) 7:40 (pp)
Penalty — Foster Edm (tripping) 7:06.
Second Period
3. Nashville, Legwand 14 (Suter, Weber) 7:00
4. Edmonton, Eberle 17 (Cogliano, Vandermeer) 9:38 (pp)
Penalties — Kostitsyn Nash (tripping) 8:45, Franson Nash (interference) 11:49.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Peckham Edm (tripping) 4:39, O'-Marra Edm (hooking) 10:53, Fisher Nash (tripping) 15:15.
Shots

Edmonton	5	7	8	—20
Nashville	15	5	10	—30

Goal — Edmonton: Dubnyk (L,10-12-7); Nashville: Rinne (W,28-20-8). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Edmonton: 1-3; Nashville: 1-3.
Referees — Stephane Auger, Eric Furlatt.
Linesmen — Mark Wheler, Brad Kovachik.
Att. — 15,745 (17,113) at Nashville.

HURRICANES 4, SENATORS 3

First Period
1. Ottawa, Greening 3 (Spezza, Butler) 7:56
2. Ottawa, Svatos 2 (Condra, Hale) 13:40
3. Carolina, Ruutu 18 (Jokinen, Skinner) 14:07
4. Carolina, LaRose 14 (Pitkanen) 14:32
Penalties — Karlsson Ott (interference) 3:02, Stillman Car (goaltender interference) 3:58, Corvo Car (hooking) 18:32, Kuba Ott (interference) 18:51, Pitkanen Car (roughing) 19:54.
Second Period
5. Carolina, LaRose 15 (Bra.Sutter, Gleason) 18:17
Penalties — Z.Smith Ott (tripping) 5:33, Neil Ott (roughing) 8:33, Allen Car (tripping) 13:36.
Third Period
6. Carolina, Stillman 10 (E.Staal, Cole) 6:04
7. Ottawa, Karlsson 13 (Spezza, Foligno) 14:16
Penalties — None.
Shots

Ottawa	11	18	10	—39
Carolina	7	11	6	—24

Goal — Ottawa: McElhinney (L,9-11-1); Carolina: Ward (W,31-24-9). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 0-4; Carolina: 0-3.
Referees — Ghislain Hebert, Kelly Sutherland.
Linesmen — Andy McElman, Scott Cherrey.
Att. — 16,189 (18,680) at Raleigh, N.C.

SABRES 2, CANADIENS 0

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Boyes Buf (tripping) 5:10, Gill Mtl (tripping) 7:50, Subban Mtl (interference) 11:53.
Second Period
1. Buffalo, Gerbe 12 (Myers, Sekera) 8:56
Penalties — Mara Mtl (cross-checking) 2:09, Vanek Buf (goaltender interference) 3:13, Picard Mtl (tripping) 5:00.
Third Period
2. Buffalo, Gerbe 13, 19:38 (en)
Penalty — Wisniewski Mtl (hooking) 7:53.
Shots

Buffalo	9	10	5	—24
Montreal	12	10	9	—31

Goal — Buffalo: Miller (W,31-21-8); Montreal: Price (L,34-25-6). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Buffalo: 0-5; Montreal: 0-2.
Referees — Marc Joanette, Wes McCauley.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Michel Cormier.
Att. — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
D.Sedin, Vcr	38	55	93
Stamkos, TB	43	43	86
H.Sedin, Vcr	18	68	86
St. Louis, TB	26	59	85
Perry, Ana	39	40	79
Ovechkin, Wash	29	48	77
Zetterberg, Det	21	52	73
Toews, Chi	30	42	72
Kopitar, LA	25	47	72
Iginla, Cal	33	38	71
Sharp, Chi	34	34	68
C.Giroux, Pha	24	44	68
B.Richards, Dal	25	42	67
Selanne, Ana	22	45	67
Crosby, Pgh	32	34	66
Nash, Clb	32	34	66
E.Staal, Car	29	36	65
Kesler, Vcr	36	28	64
P.Kane, Chi	24	39	63
Eriksson, Dal	23	40	63
J.Carter, Pha	33	29	62
Vanek, Buf	25	37	62
Ribeiro, Dal	16	46	62

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
D.C. United	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Kansas City	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
New York	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Philadelphia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Chicago	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
New England	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Toronto	1	0	1	0	2	4	0
Columbus	1	0	1	0	1	3	0
Houston	1	0	1	0	0	1	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Los Angeles	2	1	0	1	2	1	4
Vancouver	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Colorado	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Real Salt Lake	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Dallas	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Chivas USA	1	0	1	0	2	3	0
Portland	1	0	1	0	1	3	0
San Jose	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Seattle	2	0	2	0	0	2	0

Note: 3 points for victory, 1 point for tie.
Friday's game
All times Eastern
Houston at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Portland at Toronto, 2 p.m.
New York at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago, 4 p.m.
Vancouver at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
D.C. United at New England, 4:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Chivas USA, 10:30 p.m.

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Yesterday's results
Philadelphia 5, Toronto 4
Tampa Bay 7 Boston 4
Baltimore 6, N.Y. Yankees 2
N.Y. Mets 7, Detroit 4
Oakland 10 Cincinnati 8
Seattle 9 Chicago White Sox 5
Washington 3, Houston 1
Florida 3, Minnesota 0
Milwaukee 7 San Diego 0
L.A. Dodgers 2 Chicago Cubs 1 (10 inn.)
Cleveland 7 Arizona 3
L.A. Angels 14 Kansas City 6
Today's games
All times Eastern
NYM vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Phila. vs. T.B. at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Houston vs. Pitt. at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Florida vs. Atl. at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Oakland vs. Chi. Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Arizona vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. S.D. at Peoria, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
K.C. vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
LAD vs. CWS at Glendale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
San Fran. vs. LAA at Tempe, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Balt. vs. Minn. at Fort Myers, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. NYY at Tampa, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
Seattle vs. Colo. at Scottsdale, Ariz., 9:40 p.m.

CURLING

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

At Esbjerg, Denmark

Country (skip)	W	L
Sweden (Norberg)	6	1
Switzerland (Ott)	5	2
Canada (Holland)	**4**	**3**
China (B.Wang)	4	3
Denmark (Nielsen)	4	3
Russia (Privivkova)	4	3
Germany (A.Schopp)	3	4
Norway (Githmark)	3	4
Scotland (Sloan)	3	4
U.S. (Lank)	3	4
Czech Rep. (Kubekova)	2	5
South Korea (Kim)	1	6

Yesterday's results
Ninth Draw
Canada 7 Czech Republic 4
China 8 Scotland 2
Germany 7 Norway 3
Sweden 8 Denmark 3
Draw 10
Denmark 8 Norway 3
Sweden 7 Germany 5
Switzerland 9 Russia 7
U.S. 8 South Korea 6
Draw 11
Canada 9 U.S. 6
Russia 8 Scotland 6
South Korea 11 Czech Republic 2
Switzerland 7 China 6 (extra end).
Today's games
Draw 12
Russia vs. Germany; Sweden vs. Switzerland; Denmark vs. South Korea; Norway vs. U.S.
Draw 13
South Korea vs. Scotland; China vs. U.S.; Russia vs. Czech Republic; Switzerland vs. **Canada.**
Draw 14
Sweden vs. **Canada**; Germany vs. Czech Rep.; China vs. Norway; Denmark vs. Scotland.

GOLF

PGA FEDEX CUP LEADERS

Through March 20

	Points	Money YTD
1. Mark Wilson	1,086	$2,268,825
2. Nick Watney	960	$2,278,000
3. Gary Woodland	945	$1,850,064
4. Rory Sabbatini	820	$1,573,194
5. Jhonattan Vegas	791	$1,479,510
6. Bubba Watson	763	$1,667,417
7. D.A. Points	737	$1,538,207
8. Luke Donald	718	$1,807,800
9. Jonathan Byrd	705	$1,404,148
87. Stephen Ames	**142**	**$254,243**

TENNIS

WTA SONY ERICSSON OPEN

At Key Biscayne, Fla.
Women's Singles — First Round
Melanie Oudin, U.S., def. Julia Goerges, Germany, 7-5, 6-3.
Iveta Benesova, Czech Republic, def. Roberta Vinci, Italy, 7-5, 6-4.
Elena Baltacha, Britain, def. Sybille Bammer, Austria, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Bojana Jovanovski, Serbia, 6-1, 7-6 (2).
Zheng Jie, China, def. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3.
Patty Schnyder, Switzerland, def. Madison Keys, U.S., 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (2).
Petra Martic, Croatia, def. Kristina Barrois, Germany, 7-5, 6-2.
Simona Halep, Romania, def. Urszula Radwanska, Poland, 6-3, 6-2.
Johanna Larsson, Sweden, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Ayumi Morita, Japan, def. Heather Watson, Britain, 7-5, 6-2.
Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, def. Vera Dushevina, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.
Sabine Lisicki, Germany, def. Melinda Czink, Hungary, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

BASKETBALL

NCAA TOURNAMENT

All times Eastern
Regional Semifinals
EAST REGION
Friday's games
North Carolina (28-7) vs. Marquette (22-14), 7 p.m.
Ohio State (34-2) vs. Kentucky (27-8), 9:30 p.m.
SOUTHEAST REGION
Tomorrow's games
Florida (28-7) vs. BYU (32-4), 7:15 pm
Butler (25-9) vs. Wisconsin (25-8), 9:55 pm
SOUTHWEST REGION
Friday's games
Kansas (34-2) vs. Richmond (29-7), 7:15 pm
Florida State (23-10) vs. Virginia Commonwealth (26-11), 9:55 p.m.
WEST REGION
Tomorrow's games
San Diego State (34-2) vs. Connecticut (28-9), 7 p.m.
Duke (32-4) vs. Arizona (29-7), 9:30 pm

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Toronto	11	9	2	.818	132	101	—
Buffalo	10	7	3	.700	110	93	1½
Boston	11	6	5	.545	117	102	3
Rochester	10	5	5	.500	93	107	3½
Philadelphia	11	4	7	.364	99	125	5

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Calgary	11	8	3	.727	140	123	—
Minnesota	9	5	4	.556	102	98	2
Washington	11	5	6	.455	146	135	3
Edmonton	11	2	9	.182	117	147	6
Colorado	9	1	8	.111	80	105	6

x — clinched playoff berth.
WEEK 12
Friday's games
All times Eastern
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Boston at Washington, 11 p.m.
Saturday's games
Philadelphia at Rochester, 7:35 p.m.
Boston at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Sunday's game
Buffalo at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Chicago	51	19	.729	—
y-Boston	50	19	.725	½
x-Miami	48	22	.686	3
x-Orlando	45	26	.634	6½
Atlanta	40	31	.563	11½
Philadelphia	36	34	.514	15
New York	35	35	.500	16
Indiana	31	40	.437	20½
Milwaukee	28	41	.406	22½
Charlotte	28	41	.406	22½
Detroit	25	45	.357	26
New Jersey	22	47	.319	28½
Toronto	20	50	.286	31
Washington	17	52	.246	33½
Cleveland	13	56	.188	37½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	57	13	.814	—
y-L.A. Lakers	50	20	.714	7
x-Dallas	49	21	.700	8
d-Oklahoma City	45	24	.652	11½
Denver	42	29	.592	15½
Portland	41	30	.577	16½
New Orleans	40	31	.563	17½
Memphis	39	32	.549	18½
Houston	37	34	.521	20½
Phoenix	35	33	.515	21
Utah	36	35	.507	21½
Golden State	30	41	.423	27½
L.A. Clippers	27	44	.380	30½
Sacramento	17	52	.246	39½
Minnesota	17	54	.239	40½

d – division leader; **x** — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

Last night's results
Chicago 114 Atlanta 81
Portland 111 Washington 76
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Denver 123 Toronto 90
Orlando 97, Cleveland 86
Indiana 102, New Jersey 98
Boston 96 New York 86
Chicago 132 Sacramento 92
Memphis 103 Utah 85
San Antonio 111 Golden State 96
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Indiana at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Orlando at New York, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

CRICKET

WORLD CUP

QUARTER-FINALS
Today's match
At Dhaka, Bangladesh
Pakistan vs. West Indies
Tomorrow's match
At Ahmadabad, India
India vs. Australia
Friday's match
At Dhaka, Bangladesh
South Africa vs. New Zealand
Saturday's match
At Colombo, Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka vs. England

CYCLING

VOLTA OF CATALUNYA

At Banyoles, Spain
Second stage
1. Alessandro Petacchi, Ita., Lampre, 4 hr 11 min 8 sec; 2. Jose Joaquin Rojas, Spn., Movistar, same time; 3. Manuel Cardoso, Por., Radioshack, s.t.; 4. Samuel Dumoulin, Fra., Cofidis, s.t.; 5. Aitor Galdos, Spn., Caja Rural, s.t.; 6. Giacomo Nizzolo, Ita., Leopard Trek, s.t.

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BlackBerry App World
metro

5 drive

By comparison

Audi TTS roadster
Base price: $54,500
Four-wheel-drive soft-top sticks to four-cylinder turbo engine choices.

BMW Z4
Base price: $55,000
Recent facelift has this "Bimmer" looking and acting better than ever.

Infiniti G37
Base price: $60,200
Two + two folding hardtop model comes with 325-hp V6 plus plenty of extras.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Engine

The starting-point engine is a V6, but it will initially be the 302-horsepower 3.5-litre unit for the SLK 350. Mercedes-Benz reports that the V6 SLK will sprint to 96 km/h in 5.6 seconds.

Later in the model year — likely early 2012 — a new base-model SLK250 is expected, sporting a 201-horsepower turbocharged 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine that replaces the outgoing 228-horsepower 3.0-litre V6.

Magic Sky Control

The SLK's signature lightweight power-retractable hardtop returns for the 2012 model year, but you can now opt for a panoramic glass roof that can be ordered with "Magic Sky Control."

With the press of a button, the glass can be changed from a dark tint to clear, depending on the time of day or to suit your personal preference.

Spruced-up interior

Coming in for some sprucing up is the SLK's interior that showcases a new flat-bottom steering wheel, plenty of brushed aluminum trim on the centre console, plus four oversized chromed air vents that don't quite seem to fit with the car's otherwise restrained cabin design.

Optional are special leather coverings that keep the seats cooler by reflecting the sun's rays.

▶ It's the least expensive Mercedes-Benz convertible, but do you really need much more than the SLK to make a statement while enjoying the open air?

Feel good and look good in this drop-top

MALCOLM GUNN
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WHEELBASE MEDIA

With 110 years of sports-car history in its back pocket, Mercedes-Benz has learned a thing or two about what makes these cars and their proud owners tick.

And this vast experience is packed into the 2012 SLK roadster that's due to arrive this summer.

Style and substance are necessary ingredients for any sports car, but, for Mercedes-Benz, how the vehicle makes you feel and how others see you behind the wheel are perhaps treated with equal importance.

SLK customers will likely feel and look particularly good with this third-generation drop-topper. As well, anyone approaching the SLK from afar will instantly notice the dominating three-pointed star affixed to the grille.

In fact, they might even mistake the SLK for the similar-looking SL or even the SLS AMG relations that cost considerably more.

The king-size Mercedes-Benz logo is part of a larger and more upright grille, one-piece lower air intake and enlarged all-LED (Light Emitting Diode) headlamps that provides the illusion that the SLK is much lower and wider than its predecessor.

There's no word yet regarding the return of a high-performance AMG version, so for now the fuel-sipping four-cylinder and more mainstream V6 will have to do.

However, for SLK drivers it's how you arrive that's just as important as how rapidly you arrive.

Either way, you're practically guaranteed to get there with a smile.

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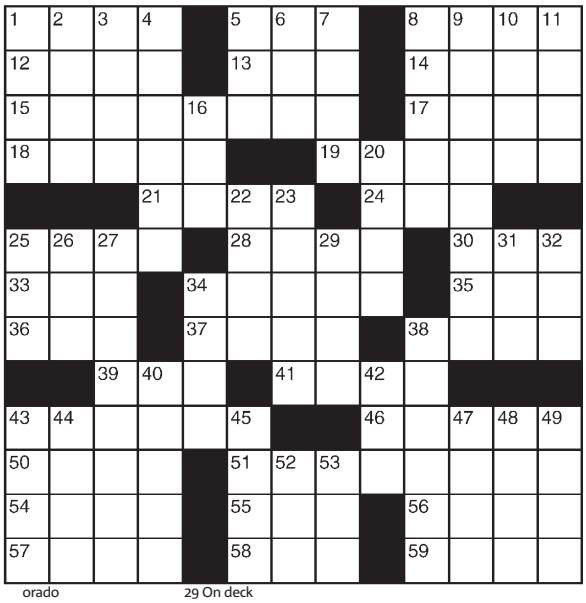
Wise customers read the fine print: • ' ±. †† § Canada's Newest Showroom Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating dealers on or after March 1, 2011. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating dealers for complete details and conditions. •$26,498 Purchase Price applies to 2011 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (24A+AGR+XFH) only and includes $8,750 Consumer Cash Discount. See participating dealers for complete details. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. °Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2010 and select 2011 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-dealer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. ±Variable Prime Rate financing up to 84 months is offered on approved credit on most new 2010 and 2011 vehicles to qualified retail customers through TD Financing Services, Royal Bank of Canada and Scotiabank. Bi-weekly payments shown are based on 84-month terms. Variable rate shown is based on TD, RBC and Scotiabank Prime Rate and fluctuates accordingly. Payments and financing term may increase or decrease with rate fluctuations. RBC offer not open to Quebec dealers. TD offer is not open to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. Some conditions apply. See participating dealers for complete details. ††Customer Choice Financing for 36-, 48- and 60-month terms on approved credit through TD Financing Services and Ally Credit Canada is available at participating dealerships to qualified retail customers on most new 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models (except Grand Caravan Cargo Van and Ram Chassis Cab) and select 2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models. The following terms apply to TD Financing Services contracts. **(Different contract terms apply to Ally Credit Canada offers. See your dealer for complete details.)** Vehicles are financed over a 36-, 48- or 60-month term with payments amortized over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of returning their vehicle through a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $199 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges), financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates or paying the residual balance in full. Some conditions apply. Customer Choice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised Customer Choice Financing offers are TD offers. Example: 2011 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (24A+AGR+XFH) with a Purchase Price of $26,498 financed at 2.99% APR over 60 months with payments amortized over 92 months equals 130 bi-weekly payments of $148 and one final payment of $9,975 for a cost of borrowing of $2,778 and a total obligation of $29,276. Taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage and wear and tear charges, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and charges not included. Dealers may sell for less. See participating dealers for complete details. §2011 Ram 1500 Quad Cab Sport 4x2 shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discounts: $31,645. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ‡Based on 2010 market share gain. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under licence. ®SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ™Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Customer Choice Financing is a trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE GREAT OFFERS

Crossword



Across

1 Safecracker
5 Collection
8 Memo acronym
12 Seed coat
13 In favour of
14 Sitarist Shankar
15 Soldierly
17 Radar screen noise
18 Defense grp., 1954-77
19 Mate
21 Gear teeth
24 Illustrations
25 Morse "T"
28 Dryer fluff
30 Rd.
33 — Khan
34 Tarzan's transportation
35 Carnival city
36 There
37 Mountain goat
38 Blue shade
39 "This — recording"
41 Celebrity
43 Nursery item
46 Labour camp
50 Birthright barterer
51 Pertaining to funds
54 Swiss city
55 Rage
56 Despot
57 Emulates Simon
58 Ball-bearing item
59 Blood (Pref.)

Down

1 Thanksgiving sides
2 Great Lake
3 River to the Colorado
4 Slight snafu
5 Resort
6 Mess up
7 Santa's sackful
8 Latticework shelter
9 Healthful
10 Hertz rival
11 Prop for Sherlock
16 As well
20 Butter servings
22 Smooth-talking
23 Trig functions
25 Rotation duration
26 Past
27 Very clean
29 On deck
31 Through
32 A long time
34 Test tube
38 Broken-leg aid
40 Stupefies
42 Candle count
43 CSA soldiers
44 On the briny
45 Send out
47 Lounge about
48 Composer Khachaturian
49 Pita sandwich
52 Raw mineral
53 Born

▶ Yesterday's answer

H	A	R	M		R	P	M		B	O	L	A
E	T	U	I		I	I	I		R	A	I	D
N	E	G	L	E	C	T	S		O	R	E	O
			I	R	E		C	E	N	S	U	S
A	G	R	E	E		D	A	R	T			
L	U	A	U		D	I	S	S	E	C	T	S
P	R	Y		B	E	T	T	E		O	U	T
S	U	S	P	E	C	T	S		M	O	T	E
			H	E	R	O		H	O	K	U	M
L	U	P	I	N	E		W	A	D			
O	P	A	L		P	R	O	J	E	C	T	S
T	O	R	I		I	O	N		S	P	A	R
S	N	A	P		T	N	T		T	A	X	I

Sudoku

		3		5		7	9	
4	7		9				1	
		8			6			
		9		6				
6		1				2		3
				1		8		
			7			5		
	1				4		8	7
	2	5		9		4		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

7	3	4	1	2	5	9	8	6
1	6	2	9	3	8	5	4	7
5	9	8	6	7	4	3	2	1
4	7	5	8	6	9	2	1	3
6	2	9	3	1	7	4	5	8
3	8	1	4	5	2	6	7	9
2	1	6	5	8	3	7	9	4
8	4	7	2	9	6	1	3	5
9	5	3	7	4	1	8	6	2

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Buzz, you've taught me so much about life and myself. i'm a better person because of you. I love you more than anything. Can't wait to see what the future holds babe Love Always Baby Girl **NES**

Swamp, I love YOU more. So there. & I wont ever stop. **PANDA**

Princess Yanna! Happy Birthday filled with love and happiness. **B&F LOVE YOU**

Juicy, you truly are special & I enjoy everyday spent with you. Looking forward to sharing my future with you. **LOVE ALWAYS HABIBI XO**

hey G, I'm thinking of you still; if you're thinking of me too, give me a call and we could talk. I miss you **M**

Fod, you're a friend that everybody wishes for, but few have. Simply put, youre the Best! **FOD SQUAD 4EVER!**

Today 11°/5° Sunny
Thursday 11°/6° Showers 40%
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You like to be on the winning side and there's not much doubt you will be today. Remember though, winning isn't everything. If you get the chance to help someone else win, that will make you feel as good.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Decide on a course of action and stick to it. The more you chop and change, the more likely it is your efforts will fall short and leave you feeling as if you have wasted your time.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If someone says something about you that is obviously not true today, you must not get angry. It will annoy him or her more if you pretend that you are not in the least bit upset.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Someone in a position of authority will ask you to team up with someone you don't really get along with today. Chances are, it is more of an order than a request. Make it work.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 If you allow others to distract you today, chances are you won't get much done. That would be a shame as you have so much going for you now. You cannot afford to be sidetracked by petty issues or petty people.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You seem to be under divine protection at the moment, but that is not an invitation to act recklessly. By all means take a few risks but make sure they are risks you can handle.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Why are you holding back from trying something new? Could it be your sixth sense warning you of dangers ahead? Yes, it could, so be careful. But don't stop altogether.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Take control of your current situation and don't let other people decide what you'll do or how you you'll do it. As a Scorpio, you don't need to care what the world thinks.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 There is good and bad in every person. If you keep that in mind today, you are less likely to get caught in one of those "I'm right, you're wrong" shouting matches that don't solve anything.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Be ready to ditch what you don't need so that what you do need has room to come in your life. Don't be sentimental about material possessions.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You're not the sort to let other people's doubts hold you back. That's just as well because you will encounter some negative reactions today. What you are planning is not doomed. It will be a success.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You may not want to rock the boat but you know that something needs to be done to shake certain people out of their slumber. Aim to inject energy into what has become just another routine. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

DAVE CHIDLEY/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

RICH MATTHEWS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadian "Superfood" Gaining International Attention Creator of UMAC Core™ *Still Defying The Odds*

UMAC-CORE is a unique product created out of an urgent need. In 2004 Tom Harper was diagnosed with a life threatening illness caused by asbestos exposure and given only months to live. He had been raising shellfish at his Research Sea Farm on Vancouver Island, simultaneously perfecting the only method worldwide of growing wild phytoplankton for use in the Aquaculture industry. Based on the wild plankton's powerful nutritional profile, upon his diagnosis he decided to consume the blend of micronutrients as an energy source he so desperately needed at the time. Every day he ingested the minute ocean plants and every day he felt stronger and experienced less pain. Finally a surgeon performed exploratory surgery. To the doctor's surprise he was inexplicably able to deliver Mr. Harper a clean bill of health.

Six years later, Tom Harper is healthy and, in his words, "feeling totally different. I'm pain free and I'm leading a good, healthy, normal life." Not long after the product was officially launched in Canada and the U.S.A., the University of Utah completed a randomized full double-blind placebo control pilot study of UMAC-CORE over a 90 day period with human subjects. Doctors who conducted the studies were impressed with the results and concluded that UMACCORE really does help enhance the immune system and support mood fluctuations, quality of sleep, and overall emotional well-being.

UMAC-CORE quickly gained far more attention than Harper could have imagined. "People were experiencing really positive shifts in their health," Harper says. "Our success was consumer driven and we weren't quite prepared for the demand. There were times when staff would offer to spend the night at the office so that we could get the product out, and they often did!"

Today UMAC-CORE is available in over 800 health food stores across Canada, in stores all across the United States and overseas in Australia, New Zealand and Spain. Following the interest and countless testimonials from the public, UMAC-CORE has been written about in dozens of newspapers across North America – and the excitement continues to grow.

Tom Harper - Creator of UMAC Core™ Marine Phytoplankton, carefully inspects a sample of newly grown wild Phytoplankton at his Sea farm on Vancouver Island, BC.

In fact, an independent website www.whyplankton.com offers an opportunity to view the amazing "Another Day" video documentary of Mr. Harper's patent pending discovery.

Kim Iles of Choices 4 Wellness – a Retailer in Chatham Ontario says, "I recommend UMAC-CORE to everybody – it's one of the top two products in our whole store and that's because people see results! I tell people that if they needed to pick only one thing, then pick UMACCORE. It has all the vitamins, minerals and essential fatty acids. It's a complete food and does so many different things in the body that it's probably the most complete supplement to recommend."

People are even giving it to their pets with remarkable results. In fact, Kim Iles says it's the results she gets with animals that have convinced her of the product's efficacy. "It's not a placebo effect when you give it to your pets. We've nursed sick animals back to health with UMAC-CORE. That's how I judge if a product really works – if you can see results with animals – and we do."

Mr. Harper's Sea Farm which grows the wild phytoplankton offered in UMAC-CORE is also making a positive impact on the environment. "I consider it one on the greenest companies in the world. Not only are we able to give back to human beings, we are also giving back to the planet."

Unique Sea Farms' only by-product is pure oxygen! Marine Phytoplankton consumes carbon dioxide and releases oxygen back into the atmosphere as it blooms in the one million litre outdoor open tanks.

Also, once the majority of plankton is harvested, the remaining plankton nutrients are returned back to the ocean – 3 to 5 times more than what was originally "borrowed" to commence the bloom cycle; helping to strengthen the base of the ocean's food chain.

Extraordinary benefits have already been discovered with a product that has only been available for 5 years, with new clinical trials presently underway!

UMAC Core is available in Liquid and Capsule formulations.
For information call Hedley Enterprises at 1-888-292-5660 or to locate a Retailer near you go on-line to: www.umaclife.com

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